

FOREST ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

NORTHERN CIRCLE, BOMBAY PRESIDENCY,

FOR THE OFFICIAL YEAR 1893-94.

INTRODUCTION.

The Circle, during practically the whole year under report, was administered by Mr. F. R. Dasai, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Messrs. Greatheed, Millett, Fisher and Wallinger being in charge of the several divisions and Mr. T. B. Fry, Deputy Conservator of Forests of the Working Plan Branch.

2. An area of 194 square miles was added to Reserved forest during the year. One hundred and eighty-seven square miles of this area were obtained by transfer of Protected forest, while the remaining 7 square miles represent the catchment area of the Tansa Lake in East Thana, which was acquired by purchase during the year.

3. The Forest Survey Party of the Government of India continued work during the year in the Thana Divisions, the forests of which are being surveyed on a scale of 8" = 1 mile.

4. The Working Plan branch continued their work in Thana, but were unable to get much ahead of immediate requirements in marking off compartments on the ground.

5. Protection, as judged by success in obtaining convictions in cases prosecuted, shows a slight falling off, but it is believed to be more in appearance than reality.

6. Protection from fire though not very successful was on the whole, especially in Thana, fairly satisfactory.

7. The financial results of the year constitute a record. The highest gross revenue ever collected, viz., Rs. 7,60,954, was obtained, while at the same time expenditure remained low. The actual net revenue amounted to no less than Rs. 4,96,007.

CHAPTER I.

EXTENSION AND CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.

(i).—ALTERATION OF AREA.

8. The changes made in the forest area during the year were as follows:—

| Class of Forests. | Area on 1st July 1893. | Added during the year. | Excluded or transferred during the year. | Area on 30th June 1894. | Remarks. |
|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------|----------|
| | Sq.m. a. | Sq.m. a. | Sq.m. a. | Sq.m. a. | |
| Reserved ... | 953 184 | 194 254 | 4 337 | 1,143 101 | |
| Protected ... | 601 80 | | 155 121 | 445 599 | |
| Leased ... | 678 320 | | | 678 320 | |

9. In the Máhim (136½ square miles) and Dáhánu (17½ square miles) Ranges of the West Thana Division large areas of Protected forest were excluded by the Demarcation Officer. Of these areas, however, 57·7 square miles and 14·6 square miles were respectively selected for reservation and with 7·1 square miles added in East Thana (portion of Tansa catchment area) and 114·6 square miles added in the Jhálod and Dohad Ranges of the Panch Maháls Division (representing Protected forest excluded two years ago and notified under Section 4) make up the 194½ miles shown above as added to Reserved forest.